

**COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**APRIL 24, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014, in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member  
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member  
Barbara Coates, Regular Member  
Joanne Damish, Regular Member  
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member  
Robert Moody, Regular Member  
Edith Noyes, Regular Member  
Ann Murphy, Associate Member  
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker  
Courtney Riley, Director

The following people were absent:

Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member  
Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member  
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member  
David Sullivan, Regular Member  
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member  
Mark Gallivan, Board of Selectmen  
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Christy Canney, Norm Conrad, and McKeen Kessel

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dolores Efthim and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made that Ann Murphy be made eligible to vote at this meeting in order to make a quorum. The motion was seconded and passed (7-0-0).

**Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Joanne Damish (with the correction of a spelling error) to accept the minutes of March 24, 2014. The motion was seconded by Jim Pellegrine and passed (7-0-0).

**Treasurer's Report**

Jim Pellegrine distributed treasurer's reports for March and April, 2014. He reviewed the figures for both months. Since the amount available in the Expense Account is high (\$16,957.05), there was a question regarding what will become of that money if it is not used by the end of June. Jim will look into it and report back at the meeting next month. A motion was made by Edith Noyes to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed (7-0-0).

**Director's Report**

- Courtney Riley stated that the Friends group has been very generous, as always. The Friends purchased a charter bus to bring seniors to the Top of the Hub restaurant in March. She also expressed appreciation to the Recreation Department for hosting the Senior Prom on April 17, 2014. Twenty-two people attended.
- May 3 is Walpole Clean-Up Day from 8:30 – 12 noon. People are needed to do various tasks in addition to picking up trash.
- The Annual Senior Summit will be held on May 8 at the Sharon Senior Center. Courtney distributed informational reminders for people to sign up for the Senior Summit with her.
- Walpole Day is coming up on Saturday, May 17. T shirts will be sold for \$6.00 each by the Council on Aging. The back of the shirts states "Elders are Rebels, Too," (referring to the logo of the high school). Some seniors will be riding on the Council on Aging float' and some will be working on the Council on Aging table in the field after the parade.
- The newsletters for May should be arriving before May 1, 2014. In the meantime, Courtney provided members with a list of May trips and events.
- Due to a request from Rick and Raymond, classic movies will be shown at the Center every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.
- At the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Ann Murphy will be moved up from associate member to regular member. That meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29, and her appointment should be taking place at 7:15 p.m.

**Outreach Worker's Report**

The deadline for fuel-assistance applications has been extended to May 15 (from April 30). Conchita Geyer has been very busy with these applications this year, so the extension will be helpful to her. Courtney and Conchita met with HESSCO case managers and were brought up to date on the latest services available through HESSCO. Conchita reported that a gentleman came in to the office who was concerned about a lady. She referred the case to HESSCO, which is looking into the situation. Another gentleman came in

with \$50 his church had given him through its Reverse Giving Program, which was meant to be given to someone who needed help in some way. Courtney thought of an individual who is very deserving. That person came in after being contacted. It made for a joyous Easter for all. Conchita also visited three clients in nursing homes bringing with her Easter cards and goodies from the Council. All were pleased and said, "Thank you."

#### **Senior Center Status**

Courtney stated that plans are still on track for the town meeting in May. She said there is a meeting at the library on May 28 concerning the Superfund. Dolores encouraged members of the Council to be at the meeting, which is scheduled to take place at 7:00 pm, Microphones have been ordered to be used at the Center.

#### **Van Report**

Courtney gave the report for March. The 19-passenger bus carried 86 passengers, traveled 141 miles, and used 23 gallons of gas. The 17-passenger bus carried 177 passengers, traveled 929 miles, and used 133 gallons of gas. The 12-passenger bus carried 42 passengers, traveled 223 miles, and used 34 gallons of gas. The totals came to 305 passengers, traveled 1293 miles, and used 190 gallons of gas.

#### **Senior Citizens Club**

Edith Noyes said there will be an auction at the next meeting, which will be held on May 7. Proceeds will be given to charity.

#### **HESSCO**

Jim Pellegrine passed around information on a fundraiser to be held on Sunday, June 1, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., featuring "Summer Wind." HESSCO is setting up a table at the Senior Spectacular, which will be held on April 25 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the North Attleboro Middle School in North Attleboro. Other booths will also be set up, which will be of interest to senior citizens.

#### **Old Business**

Courtney stated that it is important that all members of the Council either be in the parade or help at the table in the field on Walpole Day (to show people how active the seniors are). Courtney ordered 85 T shirts, which will be for sale.

#### **New Business**

Bob Moody and Ann Murphy reported on their visit to the Norwood Senior Center's Council on Aging meeting. They also spoke with the director, Dorothy Vitale, and attended a meeting of the Council on



Aging. The Council on Aging in Norwood has only five members. Each one gave a report, which were accepted as written without comments. The reports were similar to those given at the Walpole Council except that they also had a legislative report. The meeting lasted only about 20 minutes. Ann also said the trips in Norwood are expensive. Courtney responded by saying that, because the Friends group supports the Center, the cost of our trips is lower. There was some discussion regarding trips in Walpole vs. other towns as to availability, who is eligible, etc. Courtney asks that people talk with her if anyone has a problem. She said people in Walpole are given one week to sign up and then others can sign up. Courtney said she doesn't see it as a negative thing – the trips are more popular than they used to be. In Walpole, a person can sign up one other person on the trips. Some people are grandfathered in because they had to move to another town but lived in Walpole most of their lives. Dolores stated that a woman named Evelyn from Norwood helped her get the Knitting Group started in Walpole.


Terry pointed out that shopping on the van the first Wednesday of each month interferes with attendance at the meetings of the Senior Citizens Club.

Dolores distributed copies of a survey she created to be used when members of the Council visit other senior centers. She asked that members add, delete, or change the various categories she put on the survey questions. The members were asked to bring back their suggestions to the next meeting. After getting this input, Dolores will finalize the survey. She asked that people write down the Senior Center they plan to attend.

A motion was made by Bob Moody to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Terry Lehrman and passed (7-0-0).

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary